

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00724 020728Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-02 OES-03 EB-07 AID-05 AGR-05 TAR-01

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R 020506Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO DEPT OF TREASURY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3533

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PASS TREASURY FOR OSAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, EAID, US, SA

SUBJECT: FDA CUSTOMS TRAINING FOR SAUDI CHEMISTS

REFS (A) 75 OSAA 221, (B) OSAA 012

1. WITH REGARD REFTEL (A), SPECIFIC DETAILS PROMISED  
STILL NOT RECEIVED.

2. ABDALLA AL JASIR IS ON SEPARATE TRAINING MISSION AND  
MUST BE CANCELLED OUT OF THIS PROGRAM.

3. INITIAL RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS REF (B) AS FOLLOWS:

(3)(A)-ALL PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES ARE CHEMISTS  
ENGAGED IN CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FOODS AND COSMETICS.  
AHMED YUSUF QASEM IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE QUALITY CONTROL  
LABORATORY IN DAMMAM.

(3)(B)-JOB DESCRIPTION ANSWERED ABOVE. AL-AHMADI  
AHAS NO ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES; NAZIR HAS APPROXIMATELY  
20 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES; BOTH SABBAK AND RIDHWI  
HAVE APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES, AND  
QASEM HAS 50 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00724 020728Z

(3)(C)-AL AHMADI, NAZIR, SABBAK AND QASEM AL  
HAVE B. SC., RIDHWI HAS M. SC. DEGREE. FURTHER DETAILS  
NOT YET AVAILABLE; WILL FORWARD WHEN WE HAVE THEM.

(3)(D)-TOTAL PREVIOUS TRAINING COURSES NOT YET  
KNOWN; QASEM HAS HAD SEPARATE TRAINING IN HOLLAND (6 MONTHS),  
AND IRAN (3 MONTHS).

(3)(E)-AREAS OF SPECIFIC TRAINING ARE AS FOLLOWS:  
MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND POTABLE WATER; IN-

STRUMENTAL METHODS OF FAT ANALYSIS; SOAPS, DETERGENTS,  
COSMETICS; FOOD COLORS, FOOD ADDITIVES, SPICES AND CONDIMENTS;  
DAIRY PRODUCTS, POWDERED MILK AND CONDENSED MILK; FOOD  
PACKAGES (ATOM ABSORPTION TECHNIQUES).

(3)(F)-BELIVE ALL CANDIDATES HAVE GOOD ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE COMPETENCE, HOWEVER, THIS NOT YET COMPLETELY DETER-  
MINED.

4. PER PARAGRAPH TWO (2) ABOVE, AL-JASIR NOT AVAILABLE  
FOR TESTING.

5. (5)(A)-LIST OF DUTIABLE ITEMS TOGETHER WITH  
TARIFF SCHEDULE NOT AVAILABLE. ALL ITEMS ENTERING  
SAUDI ARABIA HAVE SAME TARIFF (LOW). TYPES OF GOODS  
CONSIDERED BY THE LABORATORIES, EXPECIALLY FOR PURPOSE  
OF THESE STUDENTS, ARE ALL TYPES OF CANNED, PROCESSED  
AND PACKAGED FOOD. AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF FOOD COMMODI-  
TIES ARE IMPORTED INTO SAUDI ARABIA.

(5)(B)-LIST OF PROHIBITED ITEMS ALSO DOES NOT  
EXIST. ONLY PROHIBITED ITEMS WE INTERESTED IN ARE PORK  
PRODUCTS AND ALCHOL. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF STANDARDS  
USED IN THEIR IDENTIFICATION IS VERY OUT-DATED (10 YEARS  
OLD); HOWEVER, ONE WILL BE POUCHED. POINT IS THAT SPECIFIC  
STANDARDS OR SPECIFICATIONS CANNOT BE WRITTEN, SINCE  
WRITTEN PROHIBITION IS ABSOLUTE, E.G., NO ALCOHOL, NO

PORK PRODUCTS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, SOME, ESPECIALLY AL-  
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PAGE 03 JIDDA 00724 020728Z

COHOL, IS ALLOWED IN CERTAIN FORMS SUCH AS PERFUMES, MINI-  
SCULE AMOUNTS OF VINEGAR, ETC. HOWEVER, THIS CANNOT BE  
ACKNOWLEDGED ON PAPER. STUDENTS WILL TELL YOU ABOUT IT  
WHEN THEY GET THERE.

(5)(C)-GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TECHNIQUES USED FOR  
FOOD QUALITY CONTROL. SAUDI ARABIA USES THEIR OWN SPECIFICATIONS  
IN SOME INSTANCES (THE 10 YEAR OLD DOCUMENT WHICH WILL

BE POUCHED), BUT IN MOST INSTANCES USES VARIOUS APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS SUCH AS DOCES, ALIMENTARIOUS, ISO RECOMMENDATIONS, AND OTHER AMERICAN, BRITISH, AND EUROPEAN STANDARDS AS APPLICABLE. IN GENERAL THE PRODUCTS SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WHERE THE STANDARDS DO NOT CONTRADICT SAUDI GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED ARE CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL, MICROBIOLOGICAL AND INSTRUMENTAL. REFERENCES ARE MADE TO THE AOAC, AOC, AND BSS, ETC.'

(5)(D)-THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS, WHICH IS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DOES NOT HAVE QUALITY CONTROL OR TECHNICAL LABORATORIES; THEREFORE, THIS IS DONE FOR THEM BY THE QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORIES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. ORGANIZATION IS THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE. UNDER HIM ARE THREE QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORIES. EACH LAB DOES THE FULL RANGE OF ANALYSIS. THEY ARE LOCATED IN THE THREE CITIES OF JIDDA, RIYADH AND DAMMAM.

6. AS STATED PARA 3.(3)(F) ABOVE, AND SAUDCRFOREIGN OFFICE NOTE #86/36/1/19919/2 (10/15/75) ALL CANDIDATES ARE, WE BELIEVE, COMPETENT IN ENGLISH.

7. ADDITIONAL INFO WILL BE FORTHCOMING ASAP.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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